

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20-23 are pending in this application. By this amendment Applicants amend Claims 1-2, 3-14, 16 and 20, and cancel Claims 15 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claim 23 has been added in support for which can be found at least at page 12 lines 13-21; Fig. 3 of the specification. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 13, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ackerman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,763) in view of Masuda (Japanese Patent Publication No. JP2000332332A) and Agrawal (Fiber Optic Communications Systems, 1997; pages 380-81). Claims 2-12, 14, 16-18 and 20-22 were indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

Applicants agree with the Office Action that the prior art does not teach or make obvious providing more than two multimode laser light sources.<sup>1</sup> Amended Claim 1 now recites "...providing more than two light sources configured to produce respective multimode laser lights...." New Claim 23 recites substantially similar limitations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and its dependent Claim 13) and new Claim 23 patentably distinguish over Ackerman in view of Masuda and Agrawal.

Applicants have rewritten allowable Claims 2, 7, 12, 14, 16 and 20 to independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims (and their dependent Claims 3-6, 8-11, 17-18 and 21-22) are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the

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<sup>1</sup> Office Action, page 3.

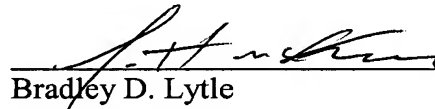
Application No. 10/603,770  
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2004

Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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